

An Actress Loses Presence of Mind.

"One of the most annoying things we have to endure," said the lady, "is the vigorous attempt which some of the members of a company will make to disconcert another. The first time I played an emotional part I suffered greatly. I was on the stage with six or eight others, and let me say that besides being comparatively new to the business, I was exceptionally and intensely nervous. I had to make one very effective speech, spoken to these six or eight people collectively. I remember this just as I was about to begin they were talking among themselves in tones that were perfectly audible to me, though of course the audience could not hear them. I frowned for them to stop, and I felt so embarrassed that I almost forgot my lines. They, however, took no notice of my frown and went on talking while I commenced my pathetic speech. Soon I heard one actor say, 'Isn't she cute?' to which another replied, 'Yes, but listen to the chatterbox who is telling those poor folks.' Then the girls tittered and the men made other ridiculous remarks. 'I lost my presence of mind. I giggled convulsively, and then—Oh, I shall never forget it—I broke down and laughed outright. The 'heavy villain' had just been telling one of the girls a silly story at which no one could help laughing. Of course he told it loud enough for me to hear with the intention of making me break down, and he succeeded. I was boiling over with anger when I left the green-room. The manager upbraid me in no very choice terms, and it was quite useless for me to attempt any explanation. I did not attempt one, however, and he informed me that if I couldn't conquer my emotions while I was on the stage I had mistaken my vocation. 'Why didn't you tell the actor what you thought of him?' asked the sagacious adolescent. 'I wouldn't have given him that satisfaction,' was the answer. 'I knew that he did it intentionally, and he had enough pleasure in his success without my adding to his glee by showing him that I felt the sting of his unkindness so deeply. He tried it again the following night, but I was equal to the occasion. When you know what you have to expect you can be prepared to meet it. So I was quite immovable, and he saw that he could not succeed again in breaking me up. Oh, we're a sweet lot of people.'—New York Times.

Duck Shooting on the Chesapeake.

"Tolling blinds," as their name indicates, are used for a specific purpose—that of "tolling" ducks. The blinds are simple wattle fences, a foot or two high and six or eight feet long, "bushied" with grass or evergreens, and placed in the shape of a semicircle close to the shore of a cove where the ducks are in the habit of bedding. Behind this the gunner hides, while a dog trained for the purpose plays up and down the blind, with comports or sticks thrown to him by his master. This attracts the eye of the fowl, the inordinate curiosity of which impels them to draw closer and closer, until with heads up and necks out they are almost out of the water; then the gunner delivers his fire, strewn the water with dead and crippled ducks. It is something on the order of killing a whole covey of quails in their "foot."

"Booby blinds" are floating platforms with grass thatched sides, anchored a hundred yards from shore. They very closely resemble a bunch of grass growing out of the water, and are very successful in some places. For years the flats of the Susquehanna river have been celebrated for the fine sport to be obtained there. In "ye olden times" the ducker on the flats used the dugout, so called from its being literally dug out of the tree from which it was made. Lying in this primitive appliance, covered with "trash," etc., and armed with a flint-locked muzzle-loading gun, imagine the picture, you, the modern ducker, which he presented.—Pictus in American Field.

Contrast Between Gen. Taylor and Scott.

In writing of his Mexican war experiences Gen. Grant gives an interesting contrast between Gen. Taylor and Scott, as follows: "I had now been in battle with the two leading commanders conducting armies in a foreign land. The contrast between the two was very marked. Gen. Taylor never wore a uniform, but dressed himself entirely for comfort. He moved about the field in which he was operating to see through his own eyes the situation. Often he would be without staff officers, and when he was accompanied by them there was no pretense of order in which they followed. He was very much given to sitting on his horse sideways, with both feet on one side, particularly on the battle-field.

"Gen. Scott was the reverse in all these particulars. He always wore all the uniforms prescribed or allowed by law. When he inspected his lines word would be sent to all divisions and brigade commanders in advance notifying them of the hour when the commanding general might be expected. This was done so that all the army might be under arms to salute their chief as he passed. On these occasions he wore his dress uniform, cocked hat, aiguillette, sabre and spurs. His staff proper, besides all officers constructively on his staff—engineers, inspectors, quartermasters, etc.—followed also in uniform and in prescribed order. Orders were prepared with great care, and evidently with the view that they should be a history of what followed."

"Morphine Parties" in French Circles.

Through a French journal I hear of morphine parties of the small and early kind in the higher circles of society. Those invited to such little gatherings are known to the hostess as being in the habit of resisting ill to which flesh is heir by subcutaneous injections of the narcotic home named. Guests and the lady of the house sit in a circle, and listen to a concert in a distant room. They describe their sensation to each other. Novices derive peculiar beauty from the morphinizing process, since it lends a dreamy luster to the eye and deepens the dark shadows below the lid, which are considered so fascinating.—Cor. Kansas City Journal.

Street Cars in Chili's Capital.

The city is thronged everywhere by street cars with women for conductors, but they do not dress uniformly as in Valparaiso. Policemen are everywhere and any refusal to pay fare or rudeness to these women is followed by a speedy arrest and fine. The streets are paved with granite—square blocks and small cobble or "skippy stones"—the latter making a very noisy and disagreeable way for either footmen or horses.—Cor. Kansas City Journal.

Unselfish persons so thoroughly enjoy seeing others happy that if unhappy themselves they don't realize it and others don't know it.—Jud. LaFargue.

Wit, like money, bears an extra value when laid down immediately when wanted.—Douglas Jerrold.

Statues Costing \$1,000,000 Apiece. It is stated on good authority that the general government of Italy, provincial juntas, and municipal councils have expended \$2,400,000 in statues of Victor Emmanuel, Garibaldi, and Mazzini.—Chicago Tribune.

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